



COUNTY BOROUGH OF DEWSBURY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1918.

DEWSBURY :

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To the Chairman and Members of the Dewsbury Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my School Medical Report for the year 1918.

The Board of Education have again suggested, owing to the exigencies of the times, that Reports should be abridged. This I have done, though a complete numerical record of the work done during the year will be found embodied. There has of necessity been some unavoidable curtailment of work during 1918, but I venture to submit that the amount accomplished is one which your staff have no need to feel ashamed of. At the commencement of the year you authorised me to obtain Medical Inspection assistance up to one hundred sessions. I was unable to obtain any suitable help, and in so far, therefore, I have been single-handed. Two groups of children "Entrants and Leavers" have been medically inspected at the Schools.

Special cases have been inspected, the number being an increase on the previous year's figure.

The same remark applies to the re-inspections. Dental work and the "further examination of eyes and the prescribing of spectacles" have both perforce been curtailed owing to Mr. ROGERSON and Dr. HERLEY being called upon to take up Military duties.

Good work has been done at the treatment centre for minor ailments, the Clinic being open every week-day morning, and occasionally at other times of the day by special appointment.

I specially draw your attention to the fact that the percentage of defects known to have been treated during the year (see Table IV., end of Report) was 72.3, compared with 59 for the previous year, and a better record still would have been attained but for the unavoidable curtailment of dental and defective vision work. The improved figure I feel sure is due to a better "following up" of defectives, which has been made possible by the appointment of an additional School Nurse. In past years when a parent has not been present at the routine medical inspection the policy has been, where defects needing treatment have been found, to write to the parents advising them to consult their doctor with a view to treatment, or

in suitable cases offering free treatment at the School Clinic. One would naturally think that this would have been sufficient, but years' experience have proved it not so. During 1918, home visits have been made by the School Nurses in all these cases, and the whole matter carefully gone into and the advisability of treatment verbally and forcibly explained. Before the desired results have been attained, oft repeated visits have been necessary in many instances, and where Hospital treatment has been advisable, the necessary recommendations have even had to be procured and taken to them before they would consent to avail themselves of the benefits offered.

It is satisfactory to note, however, that the above remarks comparatively rarely apply to dental treatment, the percentage of appointments kept being good, and many come to ask for treatment in addition. Only one age group—the six year olds—are singled out for dental treatment, and it is impossible to do this adequately during two half-days per week. It is a very necessary and beneficial work, and I would strongly advise a considerable increase in the Dentist's attendance. A whole time appointment would be quite justifiable, but this of course would necessitate an additional School Nurse, as one must be present the whole time the Dentist is working.

From the experience of certain School Clinics it is evident that the X-Ray treatment of Ringworm is the best known. If arrangements could be made whereby Dewsbury children could be so treated it would be a considerable boon, and also their exclusion from School would be considerably shortened.

The question of the Special Education of the Mentally Defective and the formation of Special Classes for the dull and backward should be carefully considered.

The provision of an Open-Air School is, I believe, amongst your early proposals. I look forward to its establishment as being an institution proved, by other authorities, to be of the greatest benefit to the physically and mentally delicate child.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. O. HALLIWELL,

School Medical Officer.

March 10th, 1919.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH THE
INSPECTION AND TREATMENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CHILDREN.

A.—Routine Inspections :—

Entrants	... — Boys	...	...	467	} 939	} 1630
	Girls	...	...	472		
Leavers	... — Boys	...	...	338	} 691	
	Girls	...	...	353		

B.—Special Inspections (Primary but non-routine) :—

At School	12	} 421
At Clinic	409	

C.—Re-inspections :—

Entrants	...	48 children	...	54	re-inspections.
Previous years	...	720	„	978	„
		<u>768</u>	„	<u>1032</u>	„

D.—Special Inspections at Schools by School-Nurses re cleanliness. 7,084

Special Re-inspections .. do. .. do. 804

E.—Home Visits by School-Nurses 1684

F.—Dental Inspections and Re-inspections at Schools :—

Inspections, primary (6 year old children)	...	...	193
Specials (other years)	...	...	21
Re-inspections	...	...	207

G.—Summary of work done at Treatment and Observation Centre :—

Minor Ailments treated	...	...	...	313
Do. under observation only	...	...	...	299

(Number of attendances of above 3,032).

Children treated by Dentist { Routine cases ... 245 } 266
Special „ ... 21 }

Number of General Anaesthetics administered ... 133

Special Examination of Eyes re Vision ... 109

The number of children inspected at each School, classified according to age at the time of Inspection, and for sex, in each group, is shown in the following table:—

SCHOOL.	ENNTRATS.						INTERMEDIATES.						LEAVERS.					
	Male.			Female.			Male.			Female.			Male.			Female.		
	4	5	Other Ages.	4	5	Other Ages.	8	9	Other Ages.	8	9	Other Ages.	12	13	Other Ages.	12	13	Other Ages.
Dewsbury Parish C. of E.	...	7	19	...	6	18	...	4	...	...	...	...	17	...	1	...	21	...
St. Paulinus R.C.	...	2	25	3	8	18	1	1	1	...	...	...	17	3	1	...	25	2
Batley Carr C.	...	2	6	1	2	9	28	1	1	...	...	...	5	...	10	3	...	...
St. Joseph's R.C.	...	2	36	2	16	28	7	7	7	...	...	...	33	3	...	22	3	...
Boothroyd Lane C.	...	8	30	1	16	28	8	8	8	...	...	...	30	1	...	20	1	...
Carlton Road C.	...	6	23	11	6	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	1	...	28	2	...
Eastborough C.	4	...	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	14	...	1	...	11	1
Dewsbury Moor C.	12	5	...	5	24	1	2	...	...	...	11	1	...	19	2	...
St. John's C. of E.	...	5	19	...	1	1	47	4	3	...	...	...	14	...	1	...	21	1
Victoria Jubilee C.	10	...	1	1	7	7	3	...	...	...	15	...	...	38	5	...
West Town C. of E.	...	7	42	3	16	1	4	14	5	...	...	...	27	2	...	7	1	...
Ravensthorpe St. Saviour's C. of E.	...	3	7	...	20	2	4	17	5	...	...	...	13	2	...	9	2	...
Chickenley Lane C.	3	5	...	1	6	2	7	...	...	...	10	1	...	1	1	...
Earlsheaton C.	3	5	...	1	6	19	5	...	...	...	11	1	...	6	1	...
Farlsheaton C. of E.	3	5	...	1	6	2	7	...	...	...	15	2	...	2	1	...
Shaw Cross C.	3	5	...	1	6	19	4	...	...	...	17	2	...	14	2	...
Thornhill C. of E.	3	2	...	2	6	2	7	...	...	...	17	1	...	16	2	...
Thornhill Edge C. of E.	3	2	...	1	6	1	2	...	...	...	15	2	...	14	3	...
Thornhill Lees C. of E.	9	17	2	5	8	1	1	...	...	...	1	9	6	3	1	...
Thornhill Lees Moor C. of E.	14	1	4	11	1	2	2	...	...	...	1	2	6	3	1	...
Whitley Lower C. of E.	...	2	1	2	1	5	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Savile Town C. of E.	...	10	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Walker C.
	78	350	39	97	325	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	310	28	...	320	33	...

NOTICES TO PARENTS AS A RESULT OF ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Notices to parents of 304 children were sent, intimating that certain defects required attention as follows:—

Boy Entrants	...	...	...	79
Girl ,,	...	...	...	64
Boy Leavers	...	...	...	74
Girl ,,	...	...	...	87
				304

The percentages of notices and comparisons with the previous year are as follows:—

YEAR.	PERCENTAGE OF NOTICES.											
	Entrants.			Intermediates.			Leavers.			All Classes.		Grand Total.
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	
1909...	23.42	18.57	22.5	...	...	...	35.9	33.6	34.4	28.7	24.03	26.31
1910...	20.57	24.4	22.5	...	...	...	23.1	34.0	26.9	21.5	28.1	24.87
1911...	14.8	13.9	14.4	...	...	...	28.2	33.4	31.0	19.2	21.3	20.2
1912...	11.2	16.2	13.6	...	...	...	21.0	26.8	23.9	15.3	20.5	17.9
1913...	12.7	12.4	12.6	...	...	...	20.5	28.4	24.5	16.5	20.7	18.5
1914 ..	28.7	28.3	28.5	...	...	...	30.7	38.0	34.5	29.6	33.0	31.3
1915...	14.0	17.1	15.8	34.3	41.8	36.1	48.3	56.1	52.2	32.9	38.7	35.9
1916...	14.3	18.0	16.2	22.5	28.3	25.4	35.3	36.5	35.8	23.6	26.8	25.2
1917...	15.2	14.9	15.0	24.6	30.3	28.5	29.1	31.6	30.3	23.1	25.8	24.4
1918...	16.9	13.6	15.2	...	...	...	21.9	21.8	23.3	19.0	18.3	18.6

The following table gives the foregoing particulars in more detail. It shows the number of children examined; the number of parents present; and the number of notices to parents respecting inspection at each School:—

NAME OF SCHOOL.	ENTRANTS.			INTERMEDIATES.			LEAVERS.		
	Notices.			Notices.			Notices.		
	Verbal.	Written.	Parents Present.	Verbal.	Written.	Parents Present.	Verbal.	Written.	Parents Present.
Dewsbury Parish C. of E.	M	F	12	M	F	16	M	F	2
St. Paulinus R.C.	29	28	19	13	7	4	2	2	...
Batley Carr C.	30	27	4	4	2	3	2	2	...
St. Joseph's R.C.	9	10	32	26	9	4	1	1	...
Boothroyd Lane C.	40	38	27	32	8	4	2	1	...
Carlton Road C.	39	51	19	17	5	4	1	1	...
Eastborough C.	40	46	16	16	8	5	2	2	...
Dewsbury Moor C.	4	6	16	16	19	3	3	3	...
St. John's C. of E.	17	9	29	27	10	1	1	1	...
Victoria Jubilee C.	24	29	10	14	2	1	4	3	...
West Town C. of E.	52	58	20	10	11	8	1	1	...
Ravensthorpe, St. Saviour's C. of E.	...	...	27	30	2	1	4	3	...
Chickenary Lane C.	...	...	23	17	20	2	2	8	...
Earlsheaton C.	27	23	26	16	19	4	1	1	...
Earlsheaton C. of E.	22	26	8	8	6	4	1	1	...
Shaw Cross C.	...	...	20	29	14	23	2	2	...
Thornhill C. of E.	...	...	5	9	3	5	2	1	...
Thornhill Edge C. of E. ....	...	...	28	14	15	12	5	3	...
Thornhill Lees C. of E. ....	...	...	15	16	11	12	2	1	...
Lees Moor C. of E.	5	5	23	16	11	9	1	1	...
Whitley Lower C. of E.	23	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Savile Town C. of E. ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Walker C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	467	472	285	289	62	46	17	18	...
	338	353	130	142	34	42	40	45	...

SUMMARIES OF, AND REMARKS UPON FACTS DISCLOSED AS A
RESULT OF MEDICAL INSPECTION OF THE TWO GROUPS OF
CHILDREN KNOWN AS ENTRANTS AND LEAVERS.

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR (given in percentages).

		ENTRANTS.		INTERMEDIATES.		LEAVERS.		Total.
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Clothing	Very good ...	2·8	·8	...	...	1·1	4·8	2·3
	Satisfactory ...	95·0	96·4	...	...	95·2	93·2	95·0
	Unsatisfactory	2·1	2·7	...	...	3·2	2·0	2·5
Footgear	Very good ..	2·3	1·2	...	...	1·2	3·9	2·1
	Satisfactory ...	94·6	96·1	...	...	94·3	92·9	94·6
	Unsatisfactory	3·0	2·5	...	...	4·4	3·1	3·1

On the whole the clothing conditions of Dewsbury children are satisfactory. There are, year by year, a few who are insufficiently and carelessly clad, and this defect can often be traced in members of the same family, and continuously, inspection after inspection.

HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS

The following tables give the average heights and weights of children examined, and the general average for the country at the specified ages:—

AVERAGE HEIGHTS (IN INCHES).

	Age Periods.						
	4	5	6	8	9	12	13
BOYS.							
General Average	38·6	40·7	43·0	...	...	55·0	56·0
Dewsbury Average	38·2	40·8	41·9	...	...	53·8	55·2
GIRLS.							
General Average ...	38·2	40·4	42·6	...	...	55·6	57·0
Dewsbury Average	39·3	38·8	42·4	..	...	54·8	57·3

AVERAGE WEIGHTS (IN LBS.).

	Age Periods.						
	4	5	6	8	9	12	13
BOYS.							
General Average ...	35·8	38·5	42·2	..	..	73·0	77·3
Dewsbury Average	36·4	38·4	41·3	...	...	70·0	73·9
GIRLS.							
General Average ...	34·9	37·6	41·0	...	..	73·9	80·4
Dewsbury Average	35·3	37·3	38·04	...	...	69·6	76·2

NUTRITION AND MALNUTRITION.

The following table shows the condition of children examined, the figures being given as percentages:—

		Very good.	Normal.	Slightly below Normal.	Bad.
Boy Entrants	...	13.2	84.8	1.9	0
Girl „	...	11.9	84.7	3.1	0
Boy Leavers	...	14.2	80.1	5.6	0
Girl „	...	18.7	74.7	6.5	0

For the past eight years the percentages of children slightly below normal and decidedly below normal are shown as follows:—

Year.		Slightly below normal.	Decidedly below normal.
1910	...	7.7	4.9
1911	...	6.2	2.8
1912	...	3	1.5
1913	...	3.3	1.4
1914	...	1.2	1.7
1915	...	2.84	.12
1916	...	5.8	0
1917	...	5.5	0
1918	...	4.0	0

The general physical condition of children inspected during the year has shown some improvement in the aggregate, compared with the two previous years. There is room for further improvement however, and this, when attained, will be reflected in years to come in an improved physical condition of the adult. Good plain suitable food and a healthy home are two of the most important factors to be aimed at.

CLEANLINESS.

The numbers of children found at the routine Inspections to be quite satisfactory, both as regards head and body are as follows:—

		Number Inspected.	Number perfectly satisfactory.	Percentage satisfactory.	
Entrants ...	Boys	467	461	Head.	Body.
	Girls ..	472	283	98.7	98.7
Intermedi- ates ...	Boys ...	...	...	...	...
	Girls ...	...	...	...	...
Leavers ...	Boys ...	38	337	99.7	99.7
	Girls ...	353	199	56.1	99.4

The following table shows the number of children at the routine Inspections found to be more or less verminous or potentially verminous, viz., children with nits:—

	Few Nits.		Many Nits.		Nits and Lice.	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Boy Entrants	3	.6	1	.2	2	.4
Girl „ „ ...	160	36	20	4.2	9	1.9
Boy Intermediates ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Girl „ „ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boy Leavers	1	.2	0	0	0	0
Girl „ „ ...	128	36.2	25	7.0	1	.2

The percentage of unsatisfactory conditions amongst boys shows very little variation year by year. It is only occasional to find a verminous condition amongst them. The same cannot be said about the girls. The percentage of unsatisfactory ones is large, and slightly larger amongst both age groups this year than last. It is evident by comparing the sexes that if the practice of wearing the hair short was universal amongst children the evil would practically disappear. On the other hand, that such a procedure is not absolutely necessary is proved by the fact that nearly sixty per cent. are quite satisfactory. In former reports I have drawn attention to certain bodily disabilities concomitant with the presence of lice. A very prevalent disease amongst soldiers during the War, viz., Trench Fever, has been proved to have been spread by the agency of lice. There is consequently amongst verminous households a real danger of this disease affecting members of the family other than the original sufferer—as a rule the father or the brother who has been fighting for his home and country.

TEETH.

The condition of children's teeth is set forth in the following table as percentages:—

	ENTRANTS.			INTERMEDIATES.			LEAVERS.		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Perfect Set of Teeth . . .	8.5	8.7	8.6	..	..	..	12.4	9.3	10.8
One to Four Teeth Decayed ..	22.7	23.7	23.5	..	..	..	47.0	56.3	51.8
More than Four Teeth Decayed	68.7	67.5	67.8	..	..	..	40.5	34.3	37.3

Note.—Special dental inspection and treatment is dealt with later.

The above figures again show the comparatively few children who have perfect teeth. This year's Leaver group compares unfavourably with the previous year's figures.

NOSE AND THROAT.

	ENTRANTS.			INTERMEDIATES.			LEAVERS.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(a) NOSE :									
Deformed Septum	0	0	0	..	..	..	3	1	4
Enlarged Turbinated Bones	0	1	1	..	..	..	4	1	5
Rhinitis	0	0	0	..	..	..	0	0	0
(b) TONSILS :									
Slightly Enlarged	85	96	181	..	..	..	55	68	123
Much Enlarged	12	12	24	..	..	..	6	14	20
Tonsillitis	0	0	0	..	..	..	0	0	0
(c) ADENOIDS :									
Slight	3	11	14	..	..	..	2	1	3
Marked	4	5	9	..	..	..	1	0	1
Mouth Breathers	1	0	1	..	..	..	3	4	7
(d) GLANDS :									
Slightly Enlarged	21	33	54	..	..	..	31	21	52
Much Enlarged	10	2	12	..	..	..	3	1	4
(e) TONSILS AND ADENOIDS	14	7	21	..	..	..	0	1	1
(f) NO DEFECT	356	330	686	..	..	..	249	253	502

The percentages of children without defect are as follows :—

Entrants ..	Male	76 per cent.
	Female	70 "
Leavers ..	Male	73 "
	Female	71 "

On the whole the above figures are a decided improvement on those of the previous year. The Entrant female group is the only group showing up adversely, but the difference is small, viz., one per cent.

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE.

	Entrants.		Intermediates.		Leavers.		Total
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female	
Blepharitis	0	1	..	..	2	2	5
Conjunctivitis	4	2	..	..	3	2	11
Corneal opacity	0	0	..	..	1	1	2
Nystagmus	0	0	..	..	2	0	2
Squint	3	6	..	..	2	1	12
Other Disease	0	0	..	..	0	0	0

The total defects show a percentage of 1.96, a small figure in itself but still a third higher than for the previous year.

VISION.

Of the 338 Boy Leavers, 175, or 51.7% had normal vision.

„ 353 Girl „ 154, or 43.6% „ „

The following had vision worse than six-twelfths, and consequently entered in the register as requiring further examination.

Boy Leavers one eye worse than six-twelfths	26
Do. both eyes	28
Girl Leavers one eye	22
Do. both eyes	44

The above total figures equal 17.3 per cent. of the whole, which is a considerable improvement on last year's figures (26.9).

EAR DISEASE.

Eighteen children had some affection of ears, viz. :—

	Otorrhoea.	Other Disease.
Entrants	10	2
Leavers	6	—

HEARING.

The hearing of the Entrants group is not tested.

The following shows the results of examinations of the Leaver group :—

	INTERMEDIATES.			LEAVERS.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
20 feet each ear (normal hearing)	327	349	676
20 feet R (defective)
,, L „ „
,, Both ears „ „
10 feet R (defective)	1	1	2
,, L „ „
,, Both ears „ „	3	1	4
5 feet R (defective)	1	1	2
,, L „ „	1	1	2
,, Both ears „ „	5	0	5
Totals defective	11	4	15

Equals 2.1 per cent. of the whole.

SPEECH.

One boy Entrant, two boy Leavers and three girl Leavers had defective speech, all being stammerers except the boy Leavers who had defective articulation. The total figure is equal to 36 per cent. of the whole, a slight decrease compared with the previous year.

MENTAL CONDITION.

Seven male and one female Leavers, and one male Entrant were marked as being dull and backward; all of these would be suitable for admission to a special class for the "dull and backward."

HEART AND CIRCULATION.

Thirty-two children or 1·8 per cent. showed some abnormal condition. Tabulated as follows:—

	ENTRANTS.		LEAVERS.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Organic Heart Disease	3	1	...	5 2
Functional , , ,	6	7	..	1 ...
Doubtful—Organic or				
Functional , , ,	...	—	3	... 1 ..
Anæmia , , ,	...	—	1	... 1 1

Of the organic conditions, one boy Entrant had congenital heart disease, and one boy Leaver had a history of having suffered from chorea; one boy Entrant, diphtheria; one boy Leaver, scarlet fever; two boy Leavers and two girl Leavers, rheumatism.

The above diseases are known causes of heart disease.

LUNGS.

(Excluding Tuberculosis or suspected Tuberculosis).

The number of children found at routine inspections to have physical signs of simple bronchitis, was as follows:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Percentage of total examined.
Entrants , , ,	... 22	16	38	4·1 } 2·6
Leavers , , ,	... 4	1	5	.72 }

The total percentage is half of the previous year's, the improvement being shown in both groups, and more especially the Leavers.

Few of these conditions have been re-inspected, as the Leaver groups have generally left School when visits for re-inspection are made, and Entrant groups being primarily inspected during the latter part of the year, their re-inspection is put off until the following year, consequently when re-inspected they appear in the table as "re-inspections of former years."

LUNGS.

(Tuberculosis and suspected Tuberculosis).

During the year I have, as a result of routine inspections, notified six cases of tuberculosis of lungs—also one non-routine case, as follows:—

	Male	Female.
Entrants...	—	2
Leavers ...	2	2
Special ...	1	—
	—	—
	3	4

Of the above, one male Leaver and one female Entrant were non-residents; these were subsequently notified to the Medical Officer of Health for the area in which they both resided.

Fourteen other children were placed on the list for special observation for suspected tuberculosis, viz:—5 male and 4 female Entrants, and 2 male and 3 female Leavers.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

One marked case of glandular tuberculosis in a girl Leaver was noted.

Children of ages besides those of the inspection groups are notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act. From all sources twenty-one School children were notified to the Medical Officer of Health as being tubercular, as follows:—

Site of Disease.	Age Periods.												Totals.							
	5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13		14	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Lungs ...	1	2	2	3	0	2	...	1	1	1	1	...	0	2	1	0	2	0	8	11
Glands ...	0	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	

The number of cases sent to Sanatorium through the Health Committee will be dealt with in the section describing treatment.

RICKETS.

Three male and two female Entrants presented signs of active rickets; the boys were affected slightly, whilst the girls' symptoms were marked. Children who presented signs of past rickets evidenced by certain deformities more or less permanent, are not included in the above figures.

DEFORMITIES.

The chief deformities met with are slight knock-knees, bent and bowed legs, pigeon breast and lameness, often due to partial paralysis of muscles and retarded growth of one limb, the result of former disease.

The children affected were as follows:—

Entrants, 12 males and 6 females, total 18 = 1.9% } 2.7%.
Leavers, 15 „ 11 „ „ 26 = 3.7% }

SKIN DISEASE.

Seventy-eight had some form of skin disease more or less severe. The total percentage affected was 8.3, a much higher figure than usual.

	Ringworm.	Scabies.	Eczema & Impetigo.	Others.	Total.	Percentage.
Entrants	6	1	32	15	54	11.5
Leavers	1	2	16	5	24	5.0

OTHER CONDITIONS.

The only other conditions worthy of note were inguinal hernia in three Entrants, a boy Leaver with sub-acute rheumatism, and a definite fracture, of recent occurrence, of the right collar bone in a boy Entrant.

NOTICES TO PARENTS AS A RESULT OF ROUTINE INSPECTION.

The following table shows the defects requiring remedial attention, for which notices were sent or given to parents:—

	ENTRANTS.			INTERMEDIATES.			LEAVERS.			Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Want of Cleanliness	9	9	18	...	...	...	...	2	2	20
Verminous Condition of Head	2	9	11	...	...	...	...	1	1	12
Clothing and Footgear	6	3	9	...	...	...	7	5	12	21
Nose and Throat	29	33	62	...	...	...	9	17	26	88
External Eye Disease ...	4	3	7	...	...	...	8	5	13	20
Defective Vision and Squint	5	6	11	...	...	...	54	66	120	131
Ear Disease	7	2	9	...	...	...	1	2	3	12
Hearing ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	4	15	15
Deformities	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
Nutrition	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	5	5	8
Heart ... ... ...	...	2	2	...	...	...	3	2	5	7
Lungs Tuberculosis ... ...	...	2	2	...	...	...	2	2	4	6
Do. do. (?) ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	3
Do. (Non-Tubercular) ...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	4
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Teeth	3	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Mental Condition ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Speech ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Skin Disease	30	24	54	...	...	...	15	9	24	78
Nervous System and Chorea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Contagious Diseases	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other Conditions	6	2	8	...	...	...	1	3	4	12
Total	109	101	210	...	...	...	111	130	241	451

SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.

Special primary medical inspections include (A) children, not belonging to the routine inspection groups, brought to the notice of the Doctor by the Teachers on the days of ordinary inspections ; and (B) those sent or brought to the Inspection Clinic by Teachers, School Attendance Officers and Parents.

Class A numbered twelve, viz :—six for defective vision, one for ear disease, three for skin disease, one for general delicacy, and one blepharitis and adenoids.

<i>Class B.—</i>	Number examined.	Number referred for treatment.
Blepharitis ...	... 11	11
Conjunctivitis	... 35	35
Eczema and Impetigo	... 104	104
Scabies ...	... 39	39
Ringworm of body	... 31	31
Ringworm of head	... 56 (13 negative)	43
Verminous condition of head	14	14
Ear Disease ...	... 8	8
Throat Disease	... 27	25
Vision ...	... 44	42
General Health	... 8	8
Miscellaneous	... 32	19
	—	—
	409	379

The above figures show a considerable increase on those of the previous year, and, as the great majority continue to come to the Clinic for treatment (as is dealt with in a later section), it will be readily understood that the work in this department is extending its sphere of utility year by year.

Further special inspections are made at the Schools by the School Nurses respecting the cleanliness of scholars, and of certain selected age group by the School Dentist for dental conditions, preparatory to dental treatment.

The inspections re cleanliness numbered 7084, this figure is three times more than last year's figure, and the large amount of work was made possible by the appointment of the additional School Nurse. As a result of these inspections, 228 children, viz :—a percentage of 3.2 were excluded from School. This is a decided improvement on last year's figures, which were 5.4 per cent.

SPECIAL DENTAL INSPECTIONS AND RE-INSPECTIONS.

Special dental inspections preparatory to treatment have been carried out on similar lines as described in a previous report.

During the year 193 six year old children were inspected, the condition found being as follows:—

	TEMPORARY TEETH.			PERMANENT TEETH.		
	Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.	Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.
193 Children examined ...	2044	66	745	1058	219	15
Average per child ...	10.6	0.3	3.3	5.4	1.1	.09

In addition 207 children were re-examined, their primary inspection having taken place previous to 1918. The results were as follows:—

	TEMPORARY TEETH.			PERMANENT TEETH.		
	Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.	Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.
207 Children examined ...	1807	36	663	1356	361	22
Average per child ...	8.7	.18	3.2	6.5	1.7	.15

DENTAL RE-INSPECTION OF CHILDREN WHO HAD RECEIVED TREATMENT IN FORMER YEARS.

One hundred and twenty-seven children who had received complete dental treatment during 1917, were re-inspected in 1918, and only one child was found to have no decay of teeth. Fifty-nine children treated during 1916 were also examined, and six were found to have no decay.

The condition of the teeth of the above children is shown as follows:—

Group	No. of Children re-examined.	No. of Children with no decay	TEMPORARY TEETH.			PERMANENT TEETH.		
			Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.	Sound.	Savable.	Unsavable.
1916	59	6	401	18	103	506	97	14
1917	127	1	1241	18	524	679	238	5
	186	7	1642	36	627	1185	335	19

The above facts show how necessary it is for children who have had treatment during any one year, to be followed up year by year if the dental condition of their mouths is to be kept satisfactory.

RE-INSPECTIONS.

The children marked for re-inspection are those who were found on inspection to require treatment, and others who, whilst not necessarily requiring immediate or early treatment, might do so in the future if their defects became worse or did not improve.

The re-inspection of the Leaver group has not been satisfactory in the past, as the children have generally left School before there has been time to visit the Schools for re-inspection. The age for leaving School being raised to fourteen years will enable a better re-inspection of this group. The primary inspection of Entrants has been carried out during the latter half of the year, and only a few re-inspections of this group as a rule have been made. The largest number re-inspected consequently are those who were primarily inspected in some year previous to the one under review, and are designated "previous years."

The following table summarises the number of re-inspections:—

	Number of Children re-inspected.	Number of defects re-inspected.	Number of re-inspections.
Entrants ...	48	59	54
Previous years	720	914	978
	768	973	1032

The re-inspections of special children primarily seen at the Clinic, and the further examination for defective vision and teeth are not included in the above figures.

The results of re-inspection of conditions referred for treatment is dealt with in Table IV. at the end of the Report.

The result of re-inspections of 298 children referred for observation only was as follows:—

	Well.	Improved.	As before.
Entrants ...	2	9	4
Previous years	147	49	87

An unsatisfactory feature revealed by re-inspection is that some children who have obtained spectacles, and not infrequently at the expense of the Local Education Authority, do not wear them, and others who also require them have not obtained them, although prescriptions have been given after "further examination" of the eyes has been made.

It is here that the influence and authority of the teachers should be strongly exercised, and I would advise that a list of scholars who should be wearing spectacles be posted in the respective classrooms as an aid to memory.

EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL.

During the year 453 children were excluded from School by the School Medical Staff. This number is an increase of 45 per cent. over the previous year's figures. There has been a considerable increase of skin diseases amongst children necessitating exclusion, and the increased inspection work carried out by the School Nurses re cleanliness has accounted for the larger number of verminous conditions found.

The number of children excluded and re-admitted is shown in the following table:—

Cause of Exclusion.			Number excluded.	Number re-admitted.
Ringworm of Scalp	...	..	46	35
„ Body	...	...	15	10
Eczema and Impetigo	...	..	76	73
Scabies	...	...	50	52
Herpes	...	...	...	1
Ear Disease	...	...	...	...
External Eye Disease	...	...	38	34
Verminous Conditions	...	..	228	225
Totals	...	...	453	430

TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

I.—*School Clinic.*

The School Clinic has been carried on as formerly, except that there has been an unavoidable curtailment of dental work, and of the "further examination of the eyes and the prescribing of spectacles" owing to Mr. ROGERSON and Dr. HERLEY being called away on Military Service.

A.—*Dental Treatment.*

	1918 Group.	1917 Group.
Number of children examined ...	193	207
Number of children with no decayed teeth ...	13	10
Number of children recommended to have treatment ...	180	199
Number consented to treatment at Clinic ...	146	171
Number refused treatment ...	7	5
Number having private treatment ...	7	5
No answer to offer of treatment ...	20	16

The following have received treatment at the Clinic:—

Of the 1918 group	94
Of the 1917 group	151
Specials	21
	—
	266

The actual treatment given was as follows:—

	Amalgam.	Amalgam.	Cement	Cement.	Silver	Nitrate.	Total.		
Teeth filled	341	...	39	...	2	...	5	...	387
Teeth extracted		...		...		...		...	634
Number of Anaesthetics administered						...	...	...	133

The anaesthetics have been given by myself. The mixture of Nitrous Oxide and Ethyl Chloride has been used and invariably been found satisfactory.

B.—Defective Vision.

The following table summarises the year's work :—

C.—Minor Ailments.

The total attendances at the Clinic for observation and treatment was 3,032. This of course does not include vision or dental cases.

The following table shows the number of cases treated and the number under observation though receiving treatment elsewhere than at the Clinic, and the number of attendances:—

CASES.	Number of cases attending for observation and treatment.	Number of cases under observation only and for diagnosis.	Total Number of Attendances.
Ringworm (Head) ...	56	9	489
„ (Body) ...	23	3	153
External Eye Disease...	46	...	484
Verminous Conditions	69	164	591
Impetigo and Eczema...	62	33	540
Scabies ...	35	15	340
Ear Disease ...	16	2	260
Nose and Throat ...	...	43	85
Lungs ...	...	6	24
Other Causes ...	6	24	66
 Totals ...	313	299	3032

Compared with the previous year there was an increase in the number of ringworm cases, and of skin diseases, and a decrease of external eye diseases, and verminous conditions for treatment; whereas for observation only, there was an increase in verminous conditions and of skin diseases and of nose and throat conditions, and a decrease in ear diseases and lung conditions.

The number of cases of ringworm attending the Clinic during the year was as follows:—

Year of origin.	Number of Cases.		Cured.		Left District.		Under observation at end of year.	
	Head.	Body.	Head.	Body.	Head.	Body.	Head.	Body.
1918 ...	46	26	17	11	1	...	29	4
1917 ...	13	...	12	...	...	...	1	...
1916 ...	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
1915 ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
1914 ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
 Total ...	65	26	35	11	1	...	30	4

The method of treating ringworm is the same as formerly, viz., by local applications. The loss of School attendance from this cause is very considerable. The parents of some of the children ask if they cannot attend School, but when asked the simple question "would you be satisfied if a child of yours which was free from any disease were to sit in School next to a child definitely and knowingly suffering from ringworm of the head"? the answer is invariably, *no*. Apart from exclusion there are two other ways of dealing with them, viz., (a) the wearing of special caps in School; and (b) attendance at a special class for ringworm cases. The objections to the first are that the children by their caps would be "dubbed" as special children, and secondly the great difficulty which would fall on the Teachers in seeing that the caps were continually worn and not made "free" with by other children during play hours and School intervals.

The difficulty arising out of the second proposition is seen when one considers the varying age periods, and how the cases are scattered throughout the Borough. Take for example the thirty uncured head cases at the end of the year, and we find them distributed as follows:—

School.	Sex and Ages of each Child.
Thornhill Lees	Male 5, 5, 7, 10 Female 10, 8, 8
Thornhill Lees Memorial	Male 5
Thornhill Lees Moor	Male 5 Female 5, 8
Thornhill Edge	Male 6
Ravensthorpe	Male 8, 9, 9, 11 Female 6
Earlsheaton Council	Female 6, 5, 6, 5, 6
Dewsbury Moor	Female 5
Victoria	Male 7, 5 Female 9, 6
St. Paulinus'	Male 5 Female 7
Carlton	Male 10

PROVISION OF MEALS.

During the year only nine children have received free meals as follows :—

Name of School.	Breakfasts	Dinners	Teas	Total Meals	No. of children fed.
Boothroyd Lane Boys'	...	191	...	191	1
,, Girls'	...	101	...	101	1
,, Infants'	...	72	...	72	1
West Town C. of E. Mixed	...	39	...	39	1
,, Infants	...	57	...	57	1
Thornhill Lees C. of E. Mixed	68	69	72	209	4
	68	529	72	669	9

The total cost was ... £11 14s. 3d.

The average cost per meal was 4·2 pence.

SANATORIUM TREATMENT FOR CONSUMPTIVE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Sanatorium treatment is provided by the Local Authority. Attached to the Institutions to which the children are sent, are Certified School Teachers, so that the children's education is not in abeyance during their residential treatment.

At the end of 1917 there were four children in Sanatorium, and during 1918 there have been twelve admissions, three remaining at the end of the year.

The average stay per child has been 135½ days.

The longest was 318 days, and the shortest 14 ; in the case of the last mentioned, the child was taken home by its parents against all advice ; and with the exception of this one every child improved in varying degree, though it is unsatisfactory to note that in some cases the children have been brought home to surroundings unsuitable for their future welfare.

TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AT THE DEWSBURY AND DISTRICT GENERAL INFIRMARY.

The Secretary of the above Institution has kindly supplied me with the following figures which relate to the treatment of School age :—

Tonsils and Adenoids Removed	...	...	356
Adenoids (only) Removed	...	...	26
Dental Cases	...	...	321
Ophthalmia Cases	...	...	298

A certain number of the above were non-residents, but I cannot give the figures.

MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

(Including Epileptics and Deaf Mutes.)

During the year one boy has left the Yorkshire School for the Blind (York); two boys and one girl have been admitted to the Yorkshire School for the Deaf and Dumb (Doncaster). The responsibility for maintenance of the boy at the Maghull Home for Epileptics has been transferred to another local Education Authority owing to change of residence of the parents. One boy has been admitted to the Shadwell Industrial School.

At the end of the year there were 17 Dewsbury children in Special Institutions, as follows:—

Yorkshire School for the Blind (York)...	...	1 boy.
Yorkshire School for the Deaf and Dumb (Doncaster)	7 boys ; 2 girls.	
Manchester Royal School for the Deaf...	...	1 girl.
Leeds Mental Deficiency School	...	1 boy.
Manchester Industrial School	...	2 boys.
Shibden Industrial School ...	...	2 boys.
Shadwell Industrial School ...	...	1 boy.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 423 cases of infectious disease amongst School children were notified to the Medical Officer of Health. There was an increase in scarlet fever, a slight increase in diphtheria, and a considerable decrease in measles.

The actual figures were as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	55
Diphtheria	...	20
Enteric Fever	...	1
Measles ...	...	447

With the exception of nine cases occurring during September and October at the Boothroyd Schools (girls), the scarlet fevers were scattered throughout the Borough and throughout the whole year. Half the diphtheria cases were amongst the Scholars attending the Earlsheaton Council School, and occurred during October, and chiefly in the Infants' department. All the children attending had their throats swabbed and examined bacteriologically, with the result that three carriers were found. No fresh cases occurred subsequent to October.

The measles cases were a continuation of the 1917 outbreak, and were carried on well into June of this year, and affected chiefly Ravensthorpe and Thornhill, viz., the two parts of the Borough

hardly affected during 1917. Similarly to the 1917 cases, the age incidence was chiefly between 3 and 7 years, more especially 5 years for out of the 447 cases, 411 occurred in children from 3 to 7 years of age.

Of the non-notifiable infectious diseases, two wide-spread epidemics of influenza occurred throughout the Borough, viz., in July, and again in October and November. Although figures are not available as to the actual number of cases occurring and the age incidence, one knows that a very large number of children were affected. Whether climatic conditions have had any effect on the incidence of the disease is doubtful, for one knows that the epidemic has practically been world wide. I certainly think, however, climatic conditions have affected the death rate, for during July, lung complications were less frequent than during October and November, when, in the ordinary way, lung affections are more prevalent. In July 3 children died, ages 3, 6 and 7 years respectively, whereas in October and November 43 died, and 5 in December.

School closure was put in force by the Health Authority from November 7th to December 2nd, and Sunday Schools also closed. Children under fourteen years of age were excluded from all places of public entertainment during the same period. Although this was recognised as the proper course to pursue, I doubt whether it had any real effect on the outbreak. The disease is highly infectious, and very many instances occurred in which whole households were affected. Not infrequently the first member of the family to be attacked was an adult, often the father. It is of course not feasible to prevent the congregating of people universally, for in addition to the stoppage of all public gatherings, it would be as necessary to close the factory and the workshop.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

All children undergo Physical Training in accordance with the syllabus approved by the Board of Education. Many of the teachers in the Elementary Schools are specially qualified to give this instruction. Whenever weather conditions are suitable the exercises are given in the open air.

This year a new departure has been entered upon in the establishment of an Evening Play Centre, with the object of providing healthy and beneficial mental and physical recreation out of the ordinary School hours, and as a contra-attraction to street roaming and street play.

The Centre was inaugurated on November 1st, 1917, and the Batley Carr Council School made use of.

Mrs. Williamson, the Superintendent, has just issued her first Annual Report, which shows that the Centre has "taken on."

Mrs. Williamson says at first the children came in a crowd of more than 500, and were accommodated and entertained for two nights, but failing to obtain temporary assistance, it was only possible to admit those who had tickets, and subsequently on some nights as many as 50 had to be rejected.

The number on the roll is now 236. The average attendance during the week ending January 17th, 1919, was 182. The year previous it was 108.

The interest in the Play Centre is evidently many-sided, for not only are games and dancing taught, but useful occupations or hobbies, such as woodwork, fretwork, basketwork, paperwork, wool-work, painting, drawing, modelling, sewing and knitting. Dancing and games are so arranged that each child has an opportunity of showing individuality in one or other. The varied nature of the occupations taught is also bound to find expression in the results of the individual children.

To my mind one of the most pleasing features of the Report I quote in the Superintendent's own words—"We are especially proud of the continued attendance of our older boys who have been with us from the start; at the same time here lies the difficulty. When the boys attain the age of 13 and begin work, they imbibe very quickly the importance of the British workman, and are too old in some ways to join in the games of the younger ones, but they will not leave us, and we cannot spare a Teacher to devote her whole time to a few only. Probably the new Continuation School will solve this problem, or when Play Centres are more general, some scheme of entertainment may be originated for the boys, say one Centre to cater for all big boys from a number of ordinary Centres."

For some time the community has been studying the difficulty of protecting young people from the temptations of life, and many advocate the plan of forming Centres where boys and girls who have passed the stage of childhood can mix together for recreation and entertainment under healthy conditions and surroundings, and as the popular cry of all social improvement is "teach the children"! surely the right time to establish Evening Play Centres is when the children are young and attending School, and then there may be more chance of them automatically joining a Centre for older children, and so on stage by stage to young manhood and womanhood.

TABLE I.—Number of Children Inspected 1st January, 1918, to 31st December, 1918.
A "CODE GROUPS."

Age	...	ENTRANTS.			INTERMEDIATES.			LEAVERS.			Grand Total.
		4	5	Other Ages.	Total.	8	Total.	12	13	Total	
Boys	...	78	350	39	467	...	...	310	28	338	805
Girls	...	97	325	50	472	...	...	320	33	353	825
Totals	...	175	675	89	939	...	...	630	61	691	1630

B GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE."

		Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).	Special Cases.	Re-Examination, <i>i.e.</i> , No. of Children re-examined.
Boys	635	975
Girls
Totals	635	975

TABLE II.—Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1918.

Defect or Disease			Code Groups.			Specials.	
			Number referred for Treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment	Number referred for Treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment
Malnutrition	...	...	8	39			...
Uncleanliness	Head	...	30	6	242	164	
	Body	...	2	1			...
Skin	Ringworm	Head	6	...	43		...
		Body	1	...	31		...
	Scabies	...	3	...	39	15	
	Impetigo	...	8	1	14		...
	Other Disease	...	60	12	90	33	
Eye	Defective Vision and Squint		131	2	42		...
	External Eye Disease		20	9	46		...
Ear	Defective Hearing		15	7			...
	Ear Disease		12	3	8	2	
Teeth	Dental Disease		4		201		
	Enlarged Tonsils		55	146			...
Nose and Throat	Adenoids	...	16	5			...
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids		17	3			...
Throat	Enlarged Glands		..	...	25	43	
	Defective Speech		...	2			...
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease—						
	Organic		3	12			...
Circulation	Functional		3	17			...
	Anæmia		1	1			...
Lungs	Pulmonary Tuberculosis—						
	Definite		6	...	1		...
	Suspected		3	11			...
	Chronic Bronchitis		...	...			...
Nervous System	Other Disease		4	38			6
	Epilepsy		...	...			...
	Chorea		...	...			...
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—							
	Glands		1	...			...
	Bones and Joints		...	...			...
	Other Forms		...	...			...
Rickets	...	...	...	...			...
Deformities	...	...	6	...			...
Other Disease or Defect	...	...	15	4	19	24	

TABLE IV.—Treatment of Defects of Children during 1918.

CONDITION.	No. of Defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary.	From previous years.	New.	Total.	No. of Defects for which no Report is available.	No. of Defects for which no Report is available.	No. of Defects	No. of Defects	Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.	No. of Defects not Treated.	Percentage of Defects Treated.	
Clothing	18	14	32	1	25	11	14	6	78.1	2	80.6	
Footgear	19	12	31	4	25	10	15	...	98.9	...	98.9	
Cleanliness of Head	20	272	292	3	289	274	15	...	100.0	...	100.0	
Cleanliness of Body	5	2	7	4	7	7	16	10	87.5	...	87.5	
Nutrition	24	8	32	4	28	2	83	19	49.7	...	49.7	
Nose and Throat	285	111	400	78	199	97	83	19	91.3	...	91.3	
External Eye Disease	16	64	80	7	73	60	12	1	78.5	1	78.5	
Ear Disease	22	20	42	8	33	5	21	7	57.8	...	57.8	
Teeth	18	20	223	5	129	120	5	4	43.7	...	43.7	
Heart and Circulation	9	7	16	9	7	2	1	4	78.0	...	78.0	
Lungs	36	14	50	11	39	13	9	17	...	...	...
Nervous System	297	12	303	240	50	13	93.8	8	93.8	
Skin	3	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	...
Rickets	6	6	12	2	8	...	5	66.6	2	66.6	
Deformities	4	1	5	...	5	1	2	...	2	...	
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	100.0	1	100.0	
Speech	3	...	3	2	2	...	2	...	2	...	
Mental Condition	65	173	238	7	120	118	2	...	50.4	...	50.4	
Vision and Squint	5	15	20	4	14	2	8	4	2	2	2	
Hearing	10	30	40	...	40	30	3	7	...	7	...	
Miscellaneous	595	1255	1850	156	1349	992	264	93	34.5	72.8	34.5	72.8
Totals	595	1255	1850	156	1349	992	264	93	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5

TABLE V.—INSPECTION, TREATMENT, ETC. OF CHILDREN
DURING 1918.

(1.) The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, Special or Ailing child) ...	2265
(2.) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observa- tion (but not referred for treatment) ...	435
(3.) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective cloth- ing, etc.) ...	817
(4.) The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.) ...	520

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